

Welcome to the Homeless Liaison list. This listserv is a communication between the SD-DOE State Homeless Coordinator and the school districts' liaisons. Periodically, you will be receiving a short newsletter pertaining to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to [Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us](mailto:Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us). Where it is appropriate, your questions and comments will be shared with all liaisons across South Dakota.

*Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program  
Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
Amended by NCLB Act of 2001*

*LEA Homeless Liaison Newsletter  
2004-2005, No. 4  
April*

**New DOE Website**

As of Monday, May 2, DOE will have a new website. Check it out at [www.doe.sd.gov](http://www.doe.sd.gov). The homeless materials may be found under the Office of Educational Support and Services - Title X, Part C.

**Additional USDOE Data Collection Requirements**

Recently, we have received information from the USDOE that there will be additional data collection requirements for 2004-2005. This data will be due to our office **September 9, 2005**.

This data must be collected from all districts, with or without a McKinney-Vento subgrant. Some of the data will be collected through SIMS (this system is being upgraded now). For those without subgrants the data will include numbers of homeless students per grade and the number of students whose primary residency falls in several categories. Both of these items will be collected by SIMS.

For LEAs with subgrants, the above data will be required along with the data on the number of students per grade that were served, number that were served by activities in each of 18 categories, what barriers to enrollment exist in your LEA, plus assessment data in reading and math for grades 3-12.

You will receive additional information on data requirements in the next few weeks.

**2005-2006 Homeless Funds**

The LEA application for the 2005-2006 McKinney-Vento funds is posted on the DOE website.

**Your Duties as a Homeless Liaison**

Every LEA must designate an appropriate staff person as a liaison for students in homeless situations. LEA Liaisons must ensure that:

- Children and youth in homeless situations are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
- Students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA.
- Families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and pre-school programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services.
- Parents or guardians are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- Public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act.
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the Enrollment Disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services.
- Liaisons must assist children and youth who do not have immunizations or immunization medical records to obtain necessary immunizations or immunization medical records.
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youths' wishes, and provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment decision that is not their choice.
- Liaisons must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement.
- Liaisons must collaborate and coordinate with State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to children and youth in homeless situations.

- State coordinators and LEAs must inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates who work with families in homeless situations of the duties of the LEA homeless liaison.

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